

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 7, 1998
MAG Offices - Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman	Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
*Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Vice Chairman	Mayor John Keegan, Peoria
Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Chairman Neil Giuliano.

2. Approval of the November 2, 1998 Meeting Minutes

Mayor John Keegan moved, Mayor Jay Tibshraeny seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the November 2, 1998 meeting.

3. Preliminary Planning for the Regional Council Retreat

James M. Bourey stated that the annual Regional Council Retreat is scheduled for January 8, 1999 at the Buttes Resort in Tempe. He noted that we would have access to the meeting room at 8:00 a.m., with the actual meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Bourey said a continental breakfast and lunch will be served, followed at the end of the day by an informal dinner for those wishing to stay.

Mr. Bourey said that based on the results of last year's discussions, he had a list of the items for topics this year, including a review of the past year's goals and accomplishments. He said the Public Communications Plan will be discussed. Mr. Bourey mentioned that Kelly Taft has been hired as the Public Communications Program Manager and is presently putting together a public communications plan. He noted that the Intergovs commented on the plan. Mr. Bourey said that he would like the members of the Executive Committee to have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before it is released.

Mayor Tibshraeny asked what is the goal of the plan? Mr. Bourey replied that the public would gain a better understanding of MAG and better interaction and communication with outside agencies and employees would be established. Mr. Bourey indicated that plan would also facilitate better communication and improve relationships with the State Legislature, the Governor's office, and the Chambers of Commerce. In addition, we would gain better visibility with the media.

Mr. Bourey noted that revisions in the Committee Structure and revenue diversification efforts would also be reviewed and discussed.

Mr. Bourey remarked that the next item on the agenda will be review and discussion of revenue diversification efforts. He noted that MAGIC has been implemented and has already assisted many member agencies. Mayor Tibshraeny asked if many services have been contracted? Mr. Bourey replied that a number of contracts have been signed and we have generated revenue. He mentioned he will keep the Committee updated. Mr. Bourey noted that MAGIC does not compete with the private sector and will continue to serve MAG agencies.

Mr. Bourey stated that the Work Program and priorities for 1999-2000 would also be discussed. Mr. Bourey stated that discussion will focus on our direction on future goals with input by the Mayors. He mentioned a Power Point presentation will be made on the summary.

Chairman Giuliano commented that it was decided at last year's Retreat to enhance our relationship with the State Legislature. Mr. Bourey noted that a lunch meeting is being scheduled in early January with the House and Senate leaders and a reception with the Regional Council members. He stated that an agenda would be forthcoming.

Mayor Keegan noted the document mentions 24 communities, but not the additional member agencies.

Chairman Giuliano complimented the format of the draft public communications plan and stated that the draft plan be sent out to the Regional Council members, and did not require previous comment from the Executive Committee.

4. Transportation Planning/Programming Update

Mr. Bourey stated that this has been a lengthy and important issue because a large amount of money for our region is at stake. He reiterated that MAG went through the federal certification process by the United States Department of Transportation. USDOT stated that MAG had done a good job. They took exception that the estimate of available funds was not being supplied by ADOT to MAG. Mr. Bourey said that MAG develops the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted that previously, ADOT has selected projects and we have added them to the TIP. Mr. Bourey stated this is where the problems occur, since MAG develops the regional freeway system, but has not controlled projects outside the MAG process. Mr. Bourey commented that we need to sit down together with ADOT and cooperatively determine the transportation program.

Mr. Bourey referred to the map of potential projects for ADOT federal funding showing completed freeways, freeways under construction, and freeway completion dates through 2014.

Eric Anderson handed out MAG's table of a summary of preliminary draft tentative program 1999-2004 produced by ADOT staff. Mr. Anderson indicated that ADOT added \$315 million of additional projects to Maricopa County. This combined with the current program of \$227 million gives our region a total of \$542 million or about 17 percent of ADOT's six year program.

Mr. Anderson handed out the draft ADOT Tentative FY 2000-2004 Highway Construction Program document. Chairman Giuliano asked if the projects shown were existing MAG priorities. Mr. Bourey stated that the draft is confusing and lists SOVs and HOVs on the Superstition. Chairman Giuliano noted that MAG staff analyzed the amount of funding proposed by ADOT and the amount is not sufficient to accelerate the freeway program. Chairman Giuliano commented that overall, ADOT has not dealt with the freeway issue.

Mayor Scruggs commented that she recalled a request made by the State Board at the December 3, 1998 Board meeting that the pavement preservation issue be presented at the State Board meeting in January. Mr. Anderson stated he would like to review the alternatives that will be discussed.

Mr. Bourey stated that at the State Transportation Board meeting on December 3, 1998, ADOT proposed giving our region an additional \$309 million, added to our current share of \$233 million, for a total of \$542 million, or 17.3 percent. Chairman Giuliano stated that the 17.3 percent for Maricopa County preliminary draft tentative program is not sufficient. He asked the Committee how we should share our displeasure with the process not being followed for drafting the tentative program.

Mr. Bourey remarked that ADOT did seek input. However, the estimate of funds was not given this year nor last year. Mayor Tibshraeny asked if ADOT gave an estimate to Pima Association of Governments. Mr. Bourey said that PAG sent a letter to Mary Peters, Director of ADOT, regarding improving ADOT's efforts to meet federal requirements on the funding and programming process. Mr. Bourey informed the Committee that the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Governor Hull stating their recommendation for distribution of our region's fair share. Mr. Bourey commented that the Chamber of Commerce letter shows a significant interest by the whole community. He handed out copies of the letters for the Committee's information. Chairman Giuliano stated we would go on record at the Regional Council meeting on December 9, 1998 in support of PAG's stand.

Mayor Scruggs remarked that any suggestion leaves ADOT more angry and hostile. Each communication reduces their willingness to compromise.

Chairman Giuliano stated that we have communicated enough through letters and we need to request a face-to-face meeting with the Board. Mr. Bourey stated that the funding estimate problem is country-wide. Mayor Scruggs stated that we are wasting our time and burning our bridges. The ADOT Board meeting was not a friendly meeting. Mayor Scruggs commented that ADOT is assembling a Task Force to solve funding problems. She suggested we offer our assistance with statewide funding and they will, in turn, assist us.

Chairman Giuliano stated that is a good strategy. He indicated that our letter to the Chairman of the State Board included our desire to meet with ADOT. Chairman Giuliano stated we are not opposed to bringing in the FHWA to mediate. He agreed that putting ADOT on notice will not help.

Mayor Scruggs remarked that no estimates will be forthcoming when the new Chairman comes in. Many ADOT staff feel it is not their responsibility to deal with urban issues.

Mayor Tibshraeny asked how much more money do we want? Mr. Bourey replied about two hundred million more than the \$309 million proposed.

Mayor Scruggs complimented staff on the good work they have done on this issue. She commented that Chairman Giuliano has the best suggestion to meet with ADOT face-to-face.

Mayor Keegan asked for clarification on criticism of the set-asides for 2000-2004. Mr. Bourey stated that the system preservation amount we would receive would be very little.

Chairman Giuliano commented that staff draft a letter, similar to PAG's letter, requesting a face-to-face dialogue and to work cooperatively. He noted it would be helpful to send a delegation of the Executive Committee to the Governor's office to state our concerns. Chairman Giuliano stated we could meet with John Carlson if the Governor is not available. Mayor Scruggs remarked that Mr. Carlson is very

knowledgeable in transportation issues. She commented that, if the situation were reversed, how would we feel if ADOT went to the Governor? Chairman Giuliano indicated that we want to present to the Governor a positive impression and a willingness to work with the ADOT Board.

Mr. Bourey stated that developing guidelines are a part of the process. The draft preliminary guidelines have been discussed by the TRC twice. He noted that further consideration will be given to items #2, #3, #4, and #5 under the Funding parameter. Mr. Bourey stated the guidelines will go back to the TRC in January, then to Management Committee and then to Regional Council. Chairman Giuliano stated that the Regional Council should be aware the Management Committee will be discussing the guidelines. Mr. Bourey stated that 99 percent of items on the Management Committee agenda are also on the Regional Council agenda. Chairman Giuliano remarked that we need to ensure that the Mayors touch base with their Managers on the guidelines. Mr. Bourey stated that the guidelines will also be discussed at the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee meeting, as well as the Regional Council meeting, on Wednesday, December 9th.

Chairman Giuliano asked if there were any further business. Mayor Keegan suggested that a presentation of an at-risk student program be made to the Executive Committee. Mayor Keegan was greatly impressed with this at-risk program, which assists at-risk youth and has a 96 to 97 percent graduation rate.

Chairman Giuliano stated that he and Mayor Wayne Brown discussed the letter of intent process. He commented that if the letter of intent process is discontinued, we can back on a regular basis, or else we play into the hands of our adversaries.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary